

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

VOLUME IV · NUMBER 1

This Issue Goes to 83,000 Members

WINTER · 1938-39

Scholarly Comradeship

HAROLD A. LARRABEE, Φ B K *Harvard*

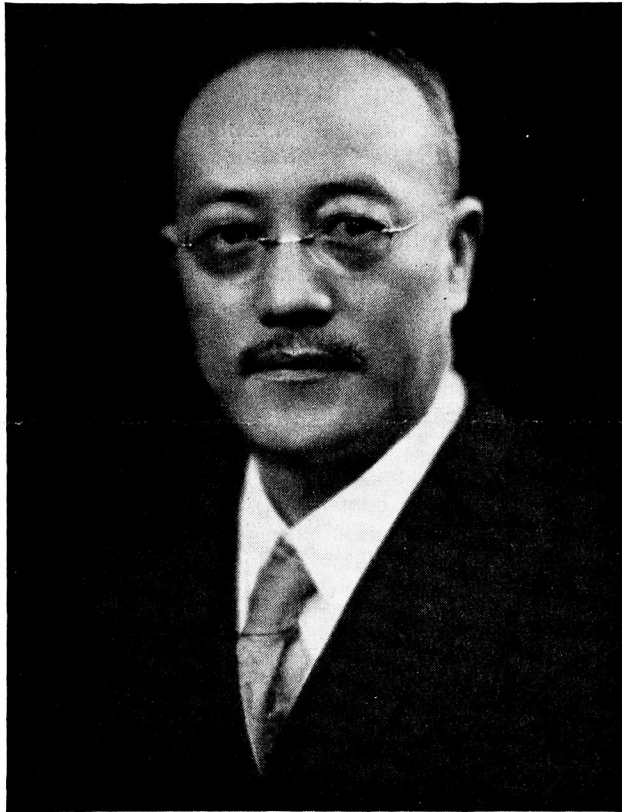
Professor of Philosophy, Union College

ANYONE who is acquainted with the disorderly canons of contemporary college publicity will realize the absurdity of discussing anything which happened in the academic world over a fortnight ago as if it were still news. As for going back twenty years or more for an idea, that way madness lies! Railroads have streamlined their trains; colleges have streamlined their curricula; both apparently hoping to carry more passengers bent upon sampling the latest in thrills. But in spite of new plans, new incantations, new schemes for placing thinly-disguised institutional advertising on the front page every Monday morning, perhaps some of the essential relationships in education remain about the same; and we might even glean a progressive idea from something that happened way back in those distant days before the War.

The members of the Harvard Chapter of Φ B K in the years 1915 and 1916 were, in part at least, an extraordinarily active and original aggregation of budding scholars. In those years, incredible as it may seem to contemporary ears, Φ B K members in Cambridge actually did something! Did something, that is, besides study hard and look owlish and key-strung. They took a positive interest in the scholarship of freshmen. They formed what they called, for want of a better name, and before the days when the word "service" had fallen under the curse of Babbitry, a "Scholarship Service Bureau."

What they had in mind can best be understood by quoting what the Bureau's chairman, Cecil H. Smith, wrote of it at the time:

The waste of college education truly consists in the missed advantages and unevoked possibilities of students left to flounder aimlessly for four years. After all the theorizing you please, these evils can never be remedied except by man-to-man effort. Nor will the most paternalistic machinery, a whole army of deans, or flashy baits do more than palliate things. Each struggling student presents his own problem and demands for his complaint the steady attendance of a friend and mental physician. The Bureau was inspired by a recognition of these truths, which, without boasting of especial originality, it sought to incorporate in a widespread movement, initiating on a larger scale the methods found salutary by individual experimenters.



Dr. Chenting T. Wang, Φ B K Yale, until recently Ambassador of the Republic of China to the United States

The actual operation of the Bureau proceeded in this wise. Freshmen in serious difficulties with their courses were asked by the dean to report to the office of the Bureau, a dormitory room donated by the College, where two of the eight members of the board of directors held office

(Continued on page 5)

Chenting T. Wang on Φ B K

This item was written by Dr. Wang before his resignation as Chinese Ambassador. Dr. Hu Shih, well known educator and graduate of Cornell University, has left the deanship of the School of Literature at Peiping University to take Dr. Wang's place in Washington.

A Φ B K key undoubtedly stands for scholarship but scholarship is not limited to key-holders. Many a famous scholar never held such a key and some even never entered a college. Nevertheless it is a mark of achievement.

In my opinion the key does stand for something more significant and important than mere scholarship. It stands for ability to concentrate one's whole attention on a given task

In This Issue:

John Erskine,

Mrs. Bachelor's Lament

Walter Prichard Eaton,

Reviews by

Odell Shepard

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHAPTERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA in November, February, May and September, at the Rumford Press, Concord, N. H. Editorial and executive offices, 145 West 55th Street, New York, N. Y. Editor, William A. Shimer, Harvard Φ B K; Assistant Editor, Dorothy E. Blair; Consulting Editor, Frank P. Graves, President of the United Chapters. Advertising rates upon application. Subscription 20 cents a year, \$1.00 for five years. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Concord, N. H., under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: if undeliverable at your office and addressee's new address is known, please forward, rated with postage due to cover forwarding charge. Undeliverable copies should be sent to:

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and determination to give one's best to that task.

Judging from my observations, I find that a far larger percentage of Φ B K men achieve success in the various lines of work than other college graduates. I ascribe this success largely to that ability of devoting their minds and will-power to the accomplishment of their tasks.

A college education is certainly helpful to any individual in that for four years his mind is stuffed with lots of information known as "book-knowledge," but if that is all there is to it, I do not think it is worthwhile to get it. After almost three decades since I left Yale, I must admit that I would fail miserably in most of the subjects I pursued there and apparently passed satisfactorily at the time. The value of a college education is in the opening of an elaborate system of highways, so to speak, which lead travellers to the fountain of knowledge — the ability to know where and how to get the information one needs to meet a given question. A right solution may bring blessings to a large number of our fellow-beings; otherwise, one might unwittingly heap misery and hardship upon them.

This training of the mind and the will-power equips the future leaders in government service, in business and in professions, etc., with ability to tackle the problems which they have to face. They begin to show this ability while in college and the Φ B K key, when awarded, gives the expression as well as the acknowledgment.

Chinese Members

THE notable Chinese members of Φ B K include Dr. Wang, Dr. Wei-Ching W. Yen, Φ B K Virginia, Chinese Ambassador to Russia; Dr. Tsune Chi-yu, Φ B K Denison, Chinese Consul-General in New York; Mrs. Sophia N. Chen, Φ B K Vassar, author, founder and associate editor of the *Independent Weekly* (Peiping), first woman professor in the Government University at Peiping; and Tai-Chi Quo, Φ B K Pennsylvania, former Chinese Ambassador to London.

According to the address files in the office of the United Chapters, there are 300 Φ B K members now resident in China, of whom approximately 65 are Chinese. No count has been made of the number of Chinese members who are resident in the United States.

A Voice from Canton

LESTER K. LITTLE,

Φ B K Dartmouth

Commissioner of Customs, Canton, China

July 15, 1938 — "As I write, I hear the drone of Japanese planes in a night raid. Electric current is, of course, shut off, and three candles furnish my light in a room with curtains drawn. The temperature is 90°."

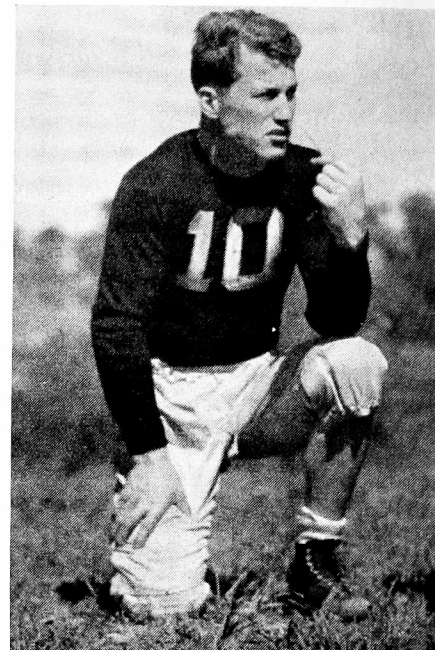
A YEAR ago I could have painted an optimistic picture of the remarkable advances which were being made in China along almost every line of thought and action: political unification, economic development and educational expansion. The picture today is tragically altered: China, her back to the wall, fights a desperate battle for her very existence as a nation. Victim of a ruthless and unjustifiable aggression, she sees her cities and villages put to the torch, her fishing fleets sunk, her factories razed, her civilians slaughtered by thousands from the air. From personal observation, I can vouch that the descriptions and pictures of events in China published in the American press err, if at all, on the side of under-statement.

Nor have the schools and universities been spared: most of the latter are located in the coastal cities, and almost two-thirds of them have been destroyed or occupied by the Japanese. The Japanese realize that the schools and universities are centers of patriotism and nationalism in China and, as such, are legitimate "military" objectives. How can Japan secure the hegemony of Asia so long as these breeding-places of "dangerous thoughts" — which have long been suppressed in Korea, Formosa and Japan — are permitted to exist?

But it is not the destruction of buildings, libraries and laboratories that matters most. Even the dispersal of faculties and students and the diversion of men and money for purposes of war are not irreparable. The grave danger for China and for the world lies in the certainty that, if the Japanese succeed in their conquest, liberal education, scholarship and culture in this great country are doomed.

Modern education in China is to a considerable extent the product of American money, methods, ideals and brains. Men and women — Chinese and American — trained in American colleges, have taken a leading part in the stupendous task of guiding a contemporary feudalism into the 20th century by building up an educational system which, besides providing for the technical and professional needs of a modern

age, attempted to inculcate those principles of integrity, fair-play, and freedom of thought and expression upon which depends the existence of democracies. These men and women — many of whom wear our key — must now look on helplessly as the fruits of their labor are systematically destroyed by an unscrupulous and alien military dictatorship. Surely, if any cause can appeal to the American people, if any cause deserves their sympathy and assistance, it is the heroic struggle in which the Chinese nation is now engaged.



Associated Press Photo

Byron R. ("Whizzer") White, Φ B K University of Colorado 1938, all-conference in football, basketball and baseball, all-American and leading national scorer as a football back, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for two years. If he does well he may be invited to stay at Oxford for a third year. His brother, Sam, has just completed his third year at Oxford.

White has been granted special permission to take up his work at Oxford at the mid-term. In the meantime he is playing football with the Pittsburgh Pirates at a salary of \$15,000. He writes:

"I did place more value upon my studying as such than I did upon athletics. However, I realize very clearly that one learns a great deal in athletics that can never be learned in any other activity in so short a time and so striking a manner."

DO NOT READ THIS if you have sent your dollar for Φ B K's emergency fund. If you haven't, and the holiday spirit comes over you, you may mail a dollar now in the Santa Claus envelope as a Christmas gift to Φ B K.

REQUESTS should be made to the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation, a corporation chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York for educational purposes.



This bust of Dr. John T. McGill, oldest living member of the Vanderbilt Chapter and for many years the Chapter's secretary, was presented to the Chapter at the anniversary meeting last year. The sculptor was Puryear Mims and the donor, Frank Rand, president of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.

ΦBK and A.A.A.S.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,

ΦBK Johns Hopkins,

Editorial Board of The American Scholar,
Secretary of the A.A.A.S., 1920-34.

THE fourth annual lecture to be sponsored by ΦBK in connection with the Winter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be delivered by Dr. Frank Pierrepont Graves, President of ΦBK and New York Commissioner of Education, on the evening of December 28, at Richmond, Virginia. The session will be open not only to members of the Association but to all ΦBK members and their friends. The subject of Dr. Graves' address is "Is Education a Science?" The three previous lectures were given by William Allan Neilson, James Rowland Angell, and George Lyman Kittredge.

The speaker for the third evening session at the great annual convention for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Associated Societies is chosen by the United Chapters of ΦBK, and the address given at that time is designated by the Association as the Annual ΦBK Lecture. Such official coöperation on the part of these two very representative organizations is significant of their deep appreciation of the modern need for insistence on the fundamental unity of scholarship throughout its whole

reach — including the kind of scholarship which deals with the way in which ever-increasing knowledge may be applied in the affairs of daily life, as well as the scholarship represented by art and literature, history and philosophy, and the scientific scholarship of linguistics, paleontology, biology and quantum physics.

Mrs. Bachelor's Lament

JEAN BEAVEN ABERNETHY,
ΦBK 1933

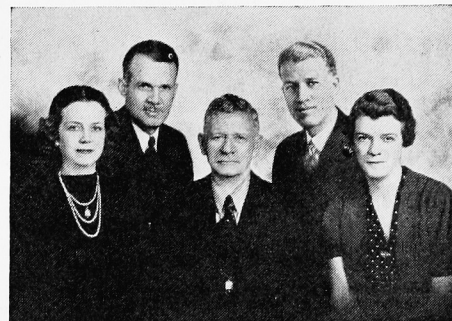
I HAVE a ΦBK key somewhere in my dresser drawer and a Bachelor's diploma hidden away in the trunk upstairs, but I also have a husband who comes home hungry twice a day and a baby who is just learning the fine art of pulling the tablecloth off the table. They represent two entirely different worlds in my experience and, for the life of me, I cannot seem to find the connection.

College permitted me to do things because they were required of me, and incidentally because they might prove interesting for me. It gave "me" as ample reason for my doing; it did not fit my actions into any larger pattern. It allowed me to think of the exercise of my native powers as though it were something which I exclusively owed myself. But I cannot lift myself by my own bootstraps. Until I can get outside of and beyond myself I have no permanent reason why I should overcome laziness in my character; no social imperative whereby a clean community, rid of open sewers and graft and social disease comes before my small, petty pursuits.

To get such motives one has to go below the surface, and the tragedy is that college never took us very deep. Perhaps that, in essence, is what I am trying to say. College gave us no philosophy of living. We went there and found spokes but no hub to hold them together. We came away with knowledge but no purpose and therein is our dilemma.

Nicholas Murray Butler once told his graduating class that religion was the only subject on the modern campus which was not getting a square deal. I did not pay much attention to that remark when I was an undergraduate, but now that I am five years out I stop to pay it tribute. Defining religion, as Matthew Arnold does, in its broadest sense, as that force in society *outside ourselves* which makes for righteousness, President Butler's passing comment be-

comes the most accurate diagnosis I have seen to date of why American college women have not been more constructive both within the home and beyond.



Five ΦBK members in one family is the record of the Crocketts, Pueblo, Colorado. From left to right — Mrs. Katherine Waller, Vanderbilt '25; Charles Crockett, Colorado College '19; E. I. Crockett, Vanderbilt alumnus '07 (graduate of '88); the late Edmund A. Crockett, Colorado College '22; and Mrs. Elizabeth Dworak, Colorado College '19.

Tune In Dec. 5th

THE Apollo Room of historic Raleigh Tavern, a part of the \$20,000,000 restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, which has grown from an idea presented to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., ΦBK Brown, at meetings in connection with the ΦBK Memorial Hall at the College of William and Mary, will be the scene of the celebration of the 162nd Anniversary of the founding of ΦBK in the old Apollo Room on December 5, 1776.

Part of the program arranged by the Alpha of Virginia for Monday, December 5th, will be broadcast from 9 to 9:30 P.M. E. S. T. over N.B.C.'s Blue Network. The program will be picked up by station WRTD of Richmond and sent from coast to coast by local stations, including WJZ, New York; WBZ, Boston; KDKA, Pittsburgh; WDSU, New Orleans; WXYZ, Detroit; WENR, Chicago; KWK, St. Louis; WREN, Kansas City; KQOD, Denver; KGO, San Francisco; and KECA, Los Angeles. It is hoped that not only will individual members listen in but that the 132 chapters and the 108 graduate associations will include the broadcast in their Founders Day programs.

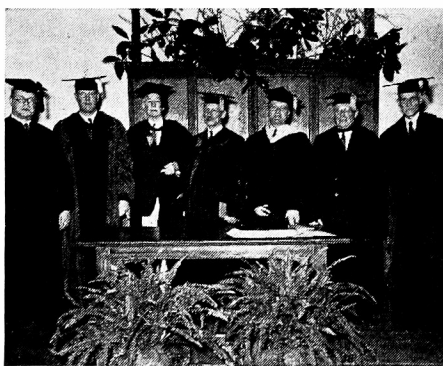
The address will be given by Dr. Frank Pierrepont Graves, President of ΦBK and New York Commissioner of Education, on the subject "The Function of Leadership." Professor Robert Hillyer of Harvard will read a poem. The introduction by an officer of the Alpha will describe the notable setting.

University of Florida Chapter Installed

CLIFFORD P. LYONS,
Φ B K *Johns Hopkins*

THE University of Florida is a combined state university and a land-grant college. Its first college, the College of Arts and Sciences, was organized in 1853. By 1904 there were six state-supported institutions of higher learning in Florida located in various parts of the State and struggling for existence. At that time the Florida Legislature consolidated all the State colleges into three, establishing the University of Florida for men at Gainesville. Thus the arts college for men and all professional and technical colleges are combined in one institution.

The College of Arts and Sciences, together with the newly organized General College, forms the nucleus of the University. In the General College all first and second year students, regardless of their vocational interests, pursue a prescribed course in the basic arts and sciences before they are admitted to the Upper Division, which consists of the arts college and the various professional schools.



Senators and former senators of Φ B K at formal installation, University of Florida. Left to right: John Kirkland Clark, John J. Tigert, Albert Shaw, Frank P. Graves, Raymond Walters, William H. Crawford, Felix E. Schelling.

To the University of Florida Φ B K is a symbol of realization and recognition; it will be a constant reminder of the University's responsibilities for the advancement of learning and the ideals of a liberal education. A state university is faced with peculiarly difficult problems. It must care in some way for the large numbers who cannot be denied admission; and it must provide the vocational and professional training which is demanded. But the University of Florida under the able leadership of President

Jno. J. Tigert, reasserts with the installation of its Chapter of Φ B K its primary concern with the good things of the mind and spirit at the highest level of excellence.

The installation exercises of the Beta of Florida Chapter took place on February 17 and 18. Addresses were delivered by President Frank Pierrepont Graves, New York Commissioner of Education; United States Senator Claude Pepper; Mr. John Kirkland Clark, President of the New York State Board of Law Examiners and Chairman of the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation; Dr. William H. Crawford, President-Emeritus of Allegheny College; and Dr. Townes R. Leigh, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Florida. The representatives of more than 50 chapters, as well as many other distinguished guests, were present.

Good Fortune at Penn State

WALTER F. DANTZSCHER,
Φ B K *Columbia*

GOOD fortune has of late been smiling on The Pennsylvania State College. Or perhaps it is simply an overdue recognition of the progress the institution has been making in recent years in scholarly achievement and in service to the people of the second largest state in the union.

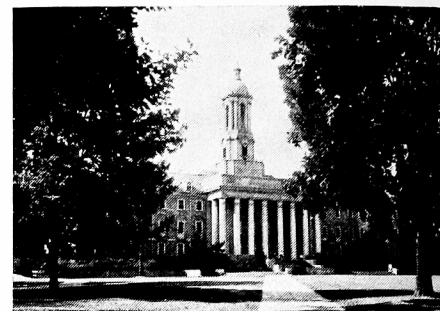
Which of the two major events in recent months is the more important would be difficult to decide. The first in point of time was the installation of the Pennsylvania Lambda Chapter of Φ B K on December 7, 1937. The second was the inauguration, a few months later, of the General State Authority—Public Works Administration \$5,000,000 building program.

Each in its way is important to the institution—the coming of Φ B K because it hails, both within the institution and in a broader sphere, the growing prestige of its School of the Liberal Arts and of liberal studies elsewhere on its campus; the building program because it is at length making a reality facilities which have been needed in increasing measure to meet the demands of a continually growing number of applicants.

There are few institutions of higher learning that are compelled, because of the lack of room, to refuse annually so many hundreds of well-qualified applicants as The Pennsylvania State College is forced to do. This naturally

entails a very rigorous policy of selective admissions.

This betokens a happy outlook for the newly installed Chapter of Φ B K, not alone because the entering student has impressed upon him from the beginning that the reason for his presence on the campus is his high standing in preparatory work, but also because there is a



Old Main, Pennsylvania State College

very definite quickening of interest in liberal subjects.

President Graves said in his installation address: "Even the most gifted youth has no natural right to the advantages of a college education, since the only justification of his receiving opportunities of which others have been deprived is that of a larger return to society."

At The Pennsylvania State College these are not idle words. Some have definitely been deprived so that others may participate in the advantages the commonwealth makes available to them. With his better than average preparation it should be easier to make the prospective Φ B K nominee see the validity of Dr. Graves' remarks, to instill in his mind at an early date the principles which election to the Society seeks to recognize.

BECAUSE the spelling bee radio program, announced in the last issue, was commercialized and sold to an advertiser of a cleaning fluid, the participation of Φ B K was withdrawn.

Keys for Xmas

Standard Φ B K keys may be procured from the office of the United Chapters, 145 West 55th Street, New York, N. Y. Three sizes may be obtained, at \$7, \$6, and \$5, including engraving.

Please send illustrated key order blank to:

Name.....

Address.....

Mt. Holyoke Chapter Award

THE Mount Holyoke Chapter of Φ B K offers a prize of \$50 to the student making the best statement regarding some contribution made within the last decade in the field of her chief academic interest.

With the Editorial Board of *The American Scholar* acting as judges, the 1937-38 award went to Miss I. Wenonah Beale, junior, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for her paper on "Insulin Shock Treatment for Schizophrenia." Special mention was given a paper on "Interstellar Gas, Its Discovery and Significance."

Job Questionnaire

REPORT on the Autumn issue's job-distribution questionnaire will appear next number. Get yours in!

Know of an Opening?

If name is not given, address Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER.

BUSINESS, SECRETARIAL — See also 174

163. Morris Garelick, 1310 Grant Ave., N. Y. C. B.S., C.C.N.Y. '38; majors, chemistry, biology. Exp. — assistant chemist for fruit packers corporation; knowl. of typing. Wants position with firm connected with organic chemical field.

164. Paul Hendrick, 164-06 Northern Blvd., Flushing, N. Y. A.B., Iowa '37; majors, history, political science and international relations; M.A., Fletcher School of Law '38. Wants position which will utilize research, secretarial, commercial, advertising exp. and knowl. of French, Spanish, German. Prefers foreign relations work with commercial concerns or with governmental departments of commerce.

165. (Mr., Ill.) Ph.B., Brown '31; major, English; work in psychology and education at Northwestern. Exp. — 7 yrs. in public relations, vital statistics, industrial hygiene, teaching, family welfare, administrative, executive. Wants work as executive assistant, writer, or in public relations.

166. (Mr., N. J.) Duke '30; major, economics. Exp. — supervisor in large utility. Wants to change to industrial or commercial organization, preferably in Philadelphia area.

167. Miss Mary M. Schrader, Hotel Bassett, Brooklyn, N. Y. A.B., Indiana '32; majors, English, Latin. Exp. — 2 yrs. teaching, 3 yrs. secretarial. Wants secretarial position in N. Y. C.

INTERNESHIP

168. Dr. Harry P. Loomer, 1552 E. 3rd St., Brooklyn, N. Y. B.S., C.C.N.Y. '32; 2½ yrs. medical study, Univ. of Heidelberg; ½ yr., Univ. of Berlin; 3 yrs., Univ. of Vienna (medical degree); 2 months internship, General Hospital of Vienna; 1 month of obstetrics, "Frauenklinik" in Vienna; 3 months research with Dr. Erwin Fueher of Vienna on new cure for cancer by means of electronic rays; ½ yr. research with Dr. Wilhelm Rosenberg of Baden. Knowl. of German and French. Wants rotating internship of 1 or 2 yrs. duration, salary no objective, would consider a residency after completion of internship.

JOURNALISM, PUBLISHING — See also 126

169. (Miss, Conn.) A.B., Brown '35; major, political science; minor, English; M.A., Virginia '38. Exp. — 2 yrs. teaching biology, history, science. Wants newspaper work, research, college teaching with work for Ph.D.

170. Howell Watkins Roberts, Jr., 102 Fourth St., Garden City, N. Y. A.B., Washington & Lee '37; majors, English, French; M.A. '38. Exp. — summers as bank runner and clerk, assistant to real estate broker; work in college as ass't to Dean of Students. Wants publishing or advertising in N. Y. C.

PROMOTION

171. (Mr., N. Y. C.) A.B., Yale '08; A.M. '09. Exp. — 20 yrs. with advertising agencies and publishing houses. Wants opportunity with college, museum or other institution where promotion exp. and writing ability would be valuable.

RESEARCH — See also 169, 20, 175, 179

103. Robert E. Reich, 29 The Crescent, Montclair, N. J. A.B., Univ. of Iowa '36; major, political science; minor, commerce. Exp. — motion picture and display business. Wants assistantship in inventive research or anything interesting.

172. (Mr., Ohio) A.B., Cincinnati '35; Ph.D. in organic chemistry '38; minor, physical chemistry. Exp. — teaching in organic and analytical chemistry. Wants industrial research or academic position in organic, general, or analytical chemistry.

TEACHING, TUTORING — See also 169, 172

20. (Miss, N. Y.) A.B., Cornell '26; courses in history, government. Exp. — tutoring; high school teaching, 4 yrs. at Gow School for Boys. Travel abroad. Wants also research work, or work in historical museum.

173. (Miss, N. Y. C.) A.B., Hunter '37; fellowship to Rome, Italy, 1937-38. Travel abroad. Wants college or academy teaching of Italian. French; also translating.

174. (Mr., Neb.) A.B., Nebraska '33; A.M. '34; Ph.D., Texas '38; major, physics; minor, mathematics. Exp. — 1 yr. as teaching fellow. Wants college teaching, industrial work, anything.

175. Miss Leota Davis, 1808 Kendall Ave., Madison, Wis. A.B., Oklahoma '38; M.A. this year, Wisconsin. Wants college teaching, or teaching position which will allow some research in speech correction.

176. Miss Elizabeth Field, 1436 Clay Ave., N. Y. C. A.B., Hunter '37; major, French; minor, German; A.M. this year, Columbia. Exp. — tutoring in French, practice teaching. Wants secondary school teaching.

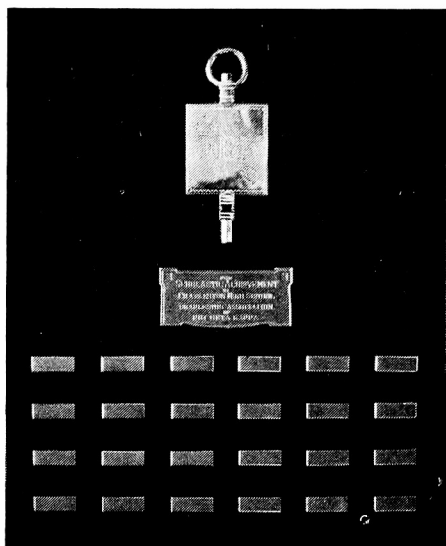
177. (Miss, N. D.) Ph.B., Syracuse '04; major, biology; minor, German; A.M. in Spanish, Middlebury '28. Exp. — 14 yrs. teaching in South America; 14 yrs. college teaching. Wants college teaching, Spanish translating, or position as traveling companion and Spanish interpreter.

178. Max S. Kirch, 1006 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa. A.B., Univ. of Pennsylvania '34; majors, French, Greek; minors, German, Latin, Spanish. Wants secondary school or college teaching, translating, abstracting.

126. (Miss, N. Y. C.) Syracuse '02; A.M., N.Y.U. '17. Exp. — teaching college mathematics, sociology; writing children's books; translating, rewriting German books; research in social problems; editorial reading. Wants also publishing work, full or part time.

179. (Miss, Jamaica, N. Y.) A.B., Colby '37; M.A. in zoology, Columbia. Exp. — college laboratory assisting and private tutoring. Wants part-time position in college teaching of biology or assistantship, also research or technical assistance.

16. Lawrence M. Tannenbaum, 808 Park Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y. A.B., Cornell '35; major, literature; M.A., N.Y.U. '38. Exp. — voluntary assistant teaching in English. Wants teaching of English or history; tutoring in French, German, Latin; or part-time work.



A mahogany plaque bearing a large gold replica of the Φ B K key was recently presented to the local high school by the Φ B K Association of Charleston, West Virginia. Plates on the plaque are to bear the names of students ranking scholastically highest in each graduating class. Winner for 1938 was Louie Edwin Miller, Jr., who received a gold medal; silver and bronze medals were presented to pupils ranking second and third.

Scholarly Comradeship

(Continued from page 1)

hours on several afternoons a week. Each applicant was interviewed, but such relief-case jargon does not really describe what happened. He told his story to the upperclassmen, of whom he naturally stood in awe, but who seemed a good many degrees less terrifying than even the lowest category of dean. They tried to get at his difficulties: was it faulty preparation, laziness, sudden freedom, love-affairs, liquor, or any other cause? When they thought they had gained a sympathetic understanding of the student, and had made clear to him their disinterested interest in his possibilities as a scholar, they would try to find a congenial senior on their list of student advisers to carry on from there. By canvassing the members of Φ B K, and asking for suggestions of names of non-members, the Bureau was able to build up a strong list of upperclassmen who had done well in their various fields of concentration, whether or not they had been elected to the Society. Each freshman who came to the Bureau was assigned to the available man on the list who seemed most likely to be useful to him in overcoming his scholastic obstacles.

The object was not tutoring in order to pass, but coöperative study and advice in order to give the stumbler the example of the steady hand. Advisers kept in touch with the daily work of their charges, tried to correct faulty technique in note-taking, reading, and the handling of quizzes and examinations, and in some instances invited their freshmen to come to their rooms and study with them. Where the scheme was successful, and the proportion of freshman salvaged was well over 90 per cent of those who were assisted, the secret of the success lay in the ripening of a friendship based upon a common interest in intellectual aims.

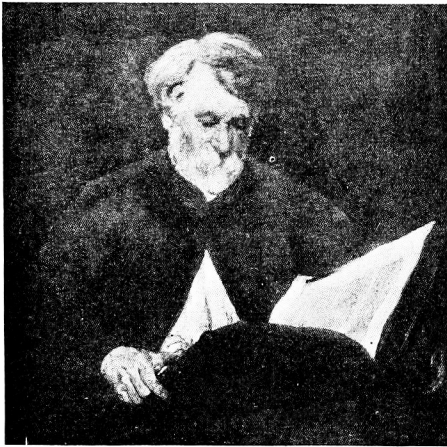
Harvard has never been noted for its paternalism. So if the idea of extending the helping hand in a comradely spirit succeeded there, as it did until it was swept away by the War, then it might succeed almost anywhere.

Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall,
Broadway Theatres and Shops
are near fine living apartments
of 3 and 5 rooms at
145 W. 55th St., N. Y. Circle 7-6960

Books to Own

The Book Committee: Zona Gale, Will D. Howe, Burton E. Livingston, Robert A. Millikan, Irita Van Doren.

For the reader's convenience orders for any books or magazines will be filled prepaid by THE KEY REPORTER. A free introductory personal or gift subscription to The American Scholar will be sent with any order of at least \$6.00.



Courtesy of N. Y. Public Library

Manet

The Reader

Fanny Kemble, A Passionate Victorian

By MARGARET ARMSTRONG. Macmillan Company, New York, 1938. \$3.

It is a little difficult to account for the fact that since 1931 no less than three biographies of Fanny Kemble have appeared in America, yet only one of them, the most recent, seems to have caught the popular fancy. There was a time when Kanny Kemble's name was as well known in America as that of any native, and she needed no biographer, for she wrote and spoke copiously for herself. Except for her initial appearances on our stage in 1832-33 she did not act in America, and had practically no effect upon our theatre. Her Shakespearean readings may have been as remarkable as some people said (not Bronson Alcott), but such readings belonged to her past, not our future. The reason why she was both prominent and important in America was because she married Pierce Butler of Philadelphia and Georgia, an extensive slave holder with a completely pre-Civil War Southern planter point of view. It was a reckless marriage, born of mutual physical attraction, and it very soon

went on the rocks. Fanny Kemble was several things which Butler could not understand. She was English, she was an artist, she was a woman who most certainly knew that women are people, she detested slavery, she was unconventional in behavior, and above all she was a Kemble, a tribe whom Miss Armstrong rightly describes (and then forgets) as "splendid, slightly pompous creatures," who assumed a kind of blood-royal quite beyond the comprehension of a Southern aristocrat. It may be all to the credit of her character that she immediately began to urge her husband to oppose slavery, and to oppose it herself, but it is not to the credit of her common sense, or her tact. In fact, she seems to have had singularly little tact. After many agonies, and no doubt much abuse on his part, she left him. He sued for divorce, and won in spite of the fact that she was defended by Rufus Choate. It was a famous case. Thereafter she lived much in America, especially in Lenox, wrote voluminously, was perhaps more mentioned in the journals of more famous Americans than any other woman, and became the grandmother of Owen Wister.

Miss Armstrong's book is written in a style that comports with the adjective of her sub-title. As a matter of fact, Fanny Kemble was not a particularly passionate woman, in any common use of the word. She was domineering, picturesque, downright, with the actor's emotional sensitivity, and a truly Victorian sense of family which kept her longer than we should have expected subject to a husband intellectually her inferior. She even disliked her profession of acting, because it was "make believe." If instead of a biography which repeats in a hundred forms the laudations of her admirers, and depicts her as a woeful and abused wife, we could have a well documented life which told us what her performances were really like, which explained her relation to the Kemble method and her dislike of acting, which gave Pierce Butler's side of the story (there is one, assuredly) and dramatized fairly the clash between two opposed ways of living, both social and economic, I for one would rejoice. Fanny came to America a girl of twenty-three, the niece of the great Siddons, daughter of Charles Kemble, the toast of London, and we fell for her hard, as the boys now say. We have taken her ever since, almost without question, at that naïf valuation. There is little in this latest biography to correct the per-

spective. The way to read this book is to supplement it with all possible references to her in nineteenth century American and English memoirs.

WALTER PRICHARD EATON,
Author and professor of play-writing, Yale University

The Paderewski Memoirs

By IGNACE JAN PADEREWSKI and MARY LAWTON. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1938. \$3.75.

For all piano players, amateur as well as professional, Paderewski is already a legend. It is a piece of good fortune that the first volume of his memoirs appears now when in our country and other parts of the earth we can enjoy his wonderful playing in the film, "Moonlight Sonata." Only the other day hundreds of thousands listened to his recital broadcast from Switzerland. In his later years he is still the pianist who belongs to the whole western world.

From his memoirs we learn the long road by which he arrived at his great achievement. If we are familiar with his playing, we know that at his marvelous best he makes the piano transcend itself — that is, he makes us forget the instrument, and ushers us into a magical realm of disembodied poetry, ethereal and poignant. Just how he does it, every thumping amateur would give his eye-teeth to know.

It is peculiarly interesting, therefore, to hear him tell how he started as a small child with a passion for music, but with inadequate, even faulty, instruction; how he mastered the art of orchestration and even learned to play other instruments before he was well on the way to his conquest of the piano; how in late youth he went to Leschetizky for instruction, and was warned that he probably could not make up for lost time; how by the exertion of his unbeatable will he proved that Leschetizky was mistaken; how by a life-long and incessant devotion to his art he won the allegiance of audiences the world over, and how by his personality — he does not say this, but we read between the lines — he became the friend and intimate of the great in all arts and professions in Europe and America.

It is an inspiring story, told simply and modestly. If it were the record of only one man, it would still be important, since that man has been for decades a unique personality. But the

book gives us also a glimpse of what we call the great tradition in piano playing, the tradition of Liszt, of Chopin, of Rubinstein, the tradition of the composer pianists whose playing is creative even when it faithfully interprets other composers.

In our time the teaching of technique has been developed so scientifically and made so easily available for youngsters of talent that finger dexterity is assumed in all professional piano players, but unfortunately we sometimes can assume little more. We too often come away from a concert admitting that we have heard Mozart or Beethoven, Debussy or Stravinski executed with competence. Executed is sometimes the word. The pianists of the great tradition are poets who bring to the piano an impassioned beauty which must be uttered.

In our time Paderewski has been the prince of the type. His account of his career has the qualities of his playing. His life and his art have been of a piece.

Later instalments of his memoirs will tell of his experiences as Prime Minister of Poland during the World War, and of his triumphant return to the piano.

JOHN ERSKINE,

Author and president of the Juilliard School of Music

Edwin Arlington

Robinson, A Biography

By HERMANN HAGEDORN. Macmillan Company, New York, 1938. \$3.50.

Less than four years ago many of us were feeling that one of the most enigmatic of American poets had gone from us without showing more than "the surface of a shield." We knew that Edwin Arlington Robinson had left many devoted friends and many brilliant letters behind him, yet it seemed unlikely that so shy and reticent a man had ever revealed in his talk or correspondence those backgrounds of his personal life which are faintly suggested in his verse. And this we felt as a serious loss not because curiosity had been thwarted but for the reason that Robinson's poetry really needs such additional light as knowledge of his life would supply. Mr. Hagedorn's biography shows that we despaired too soon. One reads his book with a sense of delighted surprise that it has been possible to make so full a record of a life which seems to

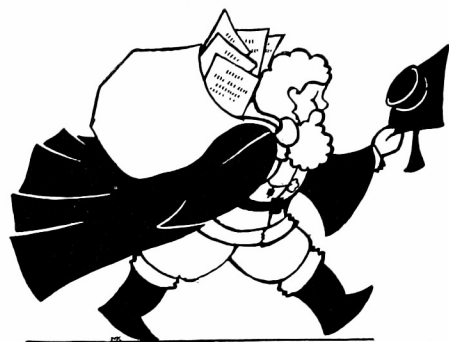
have been, in most regards, deliberately hidden away.

Not that Mr. Hagedorn, whose book is a model of biographical good manners, either tells any secrets or suggests that there are any secrets to be told. Without the least parade or ostentation and with unfailing charm and sense of proportion, he illumines the life and mind and art of Robinson so that many important matters which had seemed dark now lie clear. He indicates the source of that preoccupation with worldly success which is evident from end to end of Robinson's writing. He suggests a cause of the poet's devotion to the stricter forms of verse. He helps one to understand the phenomenal patience of this poet in the craftsmanship of verse. Here, too, the sources or the earliest adumbrations of many poems are indicated for the first time, so that one can now read "Mr. Flood's Party," "Captain Craig," or "Isaac and Archibald" with new understanding. Moreover, the book places Robinson in his time and place. Although it is concerned with recent years, it gives one a definite impression of a period now completely of the past. The many men and women who knew Robinson — most of them, to be sure, rather distantly — are brought into the picture with assured skill, with humor, and with always adequate knowledge.

It is not really a profound mind that Mr. Hagedorn's book brings before us, nor is it what one would call a powerful one. A main reason, it makes one see, for the success that Robinson attained in his art was that exclusive concentration upon the making of poetry which was, in some degree, forced upon him by the accidents of his life and, still more, by peculiarities of temperament. He wrote some of the most trenchant and memorable poetry of our time, one might almost say, because he could do nothing else.

Because it is chiefly concerned with the external phases of Robinson's life, this is probably not the last book upon its topic that we shall have. For criticism of Robinson's art and for exposition of his thought we may still go to the recent study by Professor Charles Cestre. Mr. Hagedorn has provided, however, just the materials that the critics of the future will most need, in addition to the poems themselves, in making their final estimate of Robinson's place in our literature. Already we can be sure that his place will be high.

ODELL SHEPARD, Author and professor of English, Trinity College



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The Treasurer of ΦBK, Whitney H. Shepardson, in collaboration with William O. Scroggs, is the author of *The United States in World Affairs 1937*, the sixth volume in a series published by Harper & Brothers for the Council on Foreign Relations. This work has received favorable reviews here and abroad. The chapters include "Trade as a Function of Peace" and "Mexico in Transition."



Courtesy of C. M. Lear

Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page, ΦBK North Carolina, who recently played in the number 1 position for the United States against Great Britain in the Curtis Cup Matches — defeating the British Champion 6-5, began her golf career in 1931. In 1937 she won the North-South Championship with a score of 69 — recognized as the lowest in a qualifying round shot by a woman in the history of an established championship tournament. For three years she has been medalist in the Women's National Amateur Tournament, winning in 1937.

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